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ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

FEB 05 2002



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APPLICATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO "RING THE OLD MAIN BELL"

TO: **ALUMNI SERVICES**
CAMPUS BOX 3100
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY, NORMAL, IL.

FROM: **MARILYN FREEDLUND, UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR**
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF C AND I
CAMPUS BOX 5330
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
PHONE (309) 724-8063 (home)

According to the brochure titled Realizing the Democratic Ideal, Illinois State University has "a historic and enduring commitment" to educate teachers who will function responsibly and morally in our democratic society. The terms "historic and enduring" struck a note with me because of my long association with this University, prompting me to write to tell you that I would dearly love to be a part of the Founder's Day bell ringing ceremony on February 21st. Although I am presently a part-time faculty member (I have supervised student teachers off campus for the last six years), I would also be pleased to be considered as part of the constituent group of alumni.

My personal "historic and enduring" association with Illinois State has lasted over 69 years at this point!

In 1933, I was enrolled by my mother (who herself had previously graduated from ISNU) in the second grade at Thomas Metcalf School. The elementary grades kindergarten through Gr. 8 were located in what is now Moulton Hall, and it was next to Old Main, a building which to me seemed of gigantic proportions. Old Main was built of red painted brick, with black iron stairs in front and back, and had an awesome big bell and clock tower on top! I remember the tolling of that bell even today, for I often walked to school--about two miles--and needed to be at my desk by 9:00 o'clock. I paid little attention to the many "older" college students rushing by to their 9 a.m. classes, but I thought how grand it would be to climb all the stairs to the very top floor of Old Main if I ever could!

During my days at Metcalf, one of my teachers was Miss Lura Eyestone, for whom the Eyestone School on west campus is named. I recall Miss Christine Thoene, the fifth grade teacher who had us memorize a poem every week, as well as others who were model instructors for the "model" school that Metcalf was purported to be. And, today, I believe it truly was!

Following eighth grade graduation, I attended University High School, and graduated in 1945. Students at U. High in those days had no building to call their school. Classes were held all over

the campus, and I attended Latin class and chorus in Old Main, and finally had reason to climb those wooden interior stairs. By then, the treads were worn down in the middle, and eventually the top floor was condemned as unsafe. I remember well when the building was eventually razed--what a hole it seemed to leave in the campus landscape!

After marriage and children, I returned to the University to realize the ambition I had temporarily put on hold. I knew I wanted to teach, and enrolled in Elementary Education, graduating with B.S. in Education in 1962. I began teaching in Bloomington District 87, and attained my Master's degree in 1968. Eventually I became an administrator, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, for the Bloomington school system. During these years, our four children attended Metcalf and University High, becoming the third generation of the family to do so. I taught part-time at the University during some of these years, in the education and English departments. By then, we were ISU, not ISNU.

After my retirement from the public schools in 1989, I taught at the new Heartland Community College, and was then asked to supervise elementary teachers for C and I. This position has been my major focus recently, and I have been happy to be a part of the extraordinary partnership that the public schools and the University have forged. I am so proud of this school/community involvement!

As an afterthought, I am attaching a photograph of a painting that I am very proud to own, showing Old Main in her full glory, as she stood in 1942. My cousin, Mary Ellen Warrick Keller, did this original oil painting as an art class assignment that year. She was an art major at ISNU, and also a graduate. Her husband sent it to me last year after her death, and I would be pleased to loan it to the University for any of the Founders' Day events, if desired. The American flag waving in the foreground seems very appropriate for these days.

After all these six plus decades, I can still say, "Gladly we learn...and gladly teach!"



Marilyn M. Freedlund

Marilyn Mette Freedlund

February 2, 2002

Founders Day 2002

Ring of the Old Main Bell

Nomination Form

The Old Main Bell, located on the Illinois State University Quad, is the oldest piece of University history that can be found on the campus. The bell was removed from Old Main, the first building built on the campus of what was then called Illinois State Normal University. Old Main was demolished in 1958; however, the bell has long remained a symbol of daily life to not only the campus, but also the surrounding community. Originally, it announced the time. In later years, the bell was rung for special occasions.

Today, ringing the bell on Founders Day and during Homecoming provides campus an opportunity to remember its rich heritage as the oldest public university in the state of Illinois. The still-rich tone that resonates from the bell is a tribute to the thousands of alumni, faculty, and staff that have made Illinois State University a leader in higher education and a hope for those who will follow in their footsteps, doing their part to continue to advance this grandest of enterprises.

Individuals are being sought to ring the bell with President Boschini as a part of Founders Day activities. The bell ringing ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 21 at 10 a.m. The individuals selected will also be asked to participate in other special Founders Day activities that day.

Nominations are due February 8. Individuals may self-nominate or may nominate others from campus constituent groups: students, faculty, A/P, civil service, and alumni. Nominations should include the name, department, campus mail box (or mailing address), phone number, E-mail address, and constituent group that individual is representing as well as a brief explanation as to how the nominee demonstrates the core University values as stated in Educating Illinois: Individualized Attention, Public Opportunity, Active Pursuit of Learning, Diversity, and Creative Response to Change. The Founders Day Committee will select participants from the nominations received.

Nominations should be sent to

Alumni Services
Campus Box 3100
Fax 438-8057
E-mail bttodd@ilstu.edu
Phone 438-2586

Nomination deadline is February 8.

***We look forward to seeing you at the ceremony on
Thursday, February 21 at 10 a.m. on the Quad.***

JO ANN RAYFIELD
8900
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